Blue Top Newsletter

Upcoming Meetings and Training

Meeting/Training	Date & Time (EST)	Location	Dial-In Info
CAB	Thu, Jan 7 9:30 to 12:00 **DEC CAB CANCELLED**	Grant Thornton 333 John Carlyle Dr., Alexandria, VA 4th Fl. Conf. Rm	No Telecon Provided
Registrar Refresher Training	Thu, Dec 10 2:30 to 3:30	Telecon	888-455-1864 Passcode: 3611044
User Group	Wed, Jan 20 9:00 to 12:00 **DEC UG CANCELLED**	GSA Central Office 1800F St. NW Conf. Rm 6044	888-455-1864 Passcode: 5887966
Registrar Classroom Training	Wed and Thu Dec 9-10 Jan 13-14 Feb 10-11 Mar 9-10 Apr 13-14	HP Chantilly, VA	Contact Jim Schoening for information or to Register

Special Points of Note:

Now found on www.fedidcard.gov:

> Service Order Requests and Test Card Orders

> Role Holder Web Based Training Registration

> Deployment Activities and USAccess Center Status Alert

> Contact Ken Bandy (Kenneth.bandy@gsa.gov) to be added to User Group (UG) distribution list.

> Contact Jim Schoening (jim.schoening@gsa.gov) for Registrar Classroom Training sign up

Release 9.9 Updates

USAccess Software Release 9.9 scheduled for February 6, 2016 The changes in this release include providing the capability to credential Foreign Nationals in the USAccess system and making the Personal Credentialing Assistant (PCA) available on fixed and Light workstations.

PCA is a user intuitive method of activating and completing card updates/rekeys. This software is already in use with distributed print customers, and handles PIN resets/card updates/rekeys sequentially to help prevent the issue that occurs today where

Applicants could leave an activation workstation without completing their card update following a PIN reset. It provides the same functionality as the unattended and attended activation applications used today (activations, rekeys, card updates, and PIN resets.) The MSO also plans to do a slow rollout of PCA, meaning the current Unattended and Attended Activation portals will still be available following Release 9.9 for a period of time. This will allow for proper training and adoption of PCA with the Activator community.

Release 9.9 Sponsorship Training
In order to prepare Sponsors for the changes that will be made to the Sponsorship portal as a result of the Foreign National CR (CR6000), a Sponsor role holder training webinar will be scheduled prior to the release to review how to enter information for a foreign national in the Sponsorship portal. Details will be emailed to agency leads and will appear in the Blue Top following the holidays.

The Sponsor Quick Reference Guide will be updated, as well as the Acceptable Forms of ID to account for credentialing foreign nationals in USAccess.

New fields (Foreign ID) will also appear in the Enrollment and Adjudication portals, and these will be outlined in the 9.9 release notes.

Release 9.9 Registrar and Activator Training
The January Registrar Refresher training will cover the new Foreign ID field that will appear in the enrollment application as a result of CR6000. While there is no change to the enrollment process as a result of foreign national credentialing, we want to review this with the Registrars so they are aware/not confused.

The MSO also plans to hold a PCA webinar training for Registrar, Activators and Agency Leads to review PCA. Details will be emailed to agency leads and will appear in a Blue Top following the holidays. A notice will also be posted on TRACKS. A PCA job aid will also be developed and made available following the training.

Mandatory push to fixed and light machines
A new Light installer will be made available to Agencies for internal testing on January 8, 2016. This installer must be pushed to Agency Light systems by February 6 (Release 9.9 production date), to avoid have potential issues completing enrollments and activations.

This will give Agencies almost a full month to test and later deploy the installer before Release 9.9 moves in to production.

USAccess Software 9.9 Release Notes
An early draft release notes that outlines training and documentation changes for Release 9.9 will be posted on the ALP before the holidays, with a more detailed version being made available in January.

CR pulled from 9.9
The following CR was pulled from Release 9.9 due to a delay in a CMS hotfix from our vendor. We will schedule this CR for production once the hotfix is available, testing fully and implemented.

CR8140: Encode fingerprint template on credential for poor or no finger-prints
This change places empty templates (or templates with empty views) on the credential in the case of poor or no fingerprints. Currently, no templates are placed on the card for these use cases. NIST Special Publication 800-76-2 states for poor or no fingerprint cases, empty templates should be placed on the credential.)

Fedidcard.gov Scheduled Maintenance

Fedidcard.gov will be unavailable due to scheduled maintenance the following periods in December:

Saturday, December 5, 2015: 09:00am - 05:00pm

Sunday, December 20, 2015: 09:00am - 05:00pm

Schedule Blocks for Registrar Training

Shared Site schedules are no longer automatically blocked to enable Registrars to attend Registrar Training. Site Managers will need to manually block their schedules during these times to help enable Registrars to attend the training. Trainings occur the second Thursday of every month, from 2:30pm—3:30pm Eastern.

Note that Federal Holidays are still automatically blocked for all sites.

MSO Now Accepting 7600A and B

In order to ease the funding obligation process, effective immediately customer agencies will have the option to utilize MSO-specific versions of forms 7600A and B in lieu of the MSO IA addendum to obligate funding if they choose. Agencies may also continue to utilize the current IA and IA addendum if they prefer. Both sets of form templates can be found on the USAccess home page at www.fedidcard.gov.

Upcoming Certificate Policy Change

Certificates will use the Common Policy Object Identifier (OID) going forward, rather than the Common Hardware OID. This allows for the encryption/decryption of emails and other applications on mobile devices. We would like to schedule this within the next month. If you have any input please let us know.

Service Enhancements

System Changes Since Last Blue Top

- USAccess Software Release 9.8 was pushed to production on November 14 as scheduled. A final release notice is posted on the Agency Lead Portal and the following job aids were updated as a result of changes in this release:
    * Sponsor Quick Reference Guide
    * Security Officer Card Actions Guide
    * Security Officer Document Validation Guide
    * Adjudicator Job Aid

- Entrust also completed maintenance on November 14-15. An email was sent to Agency Leads following the work as there was potential for PIV credential log issues at some agencies that have installed their own OCSP responder. The MSO was in contact with agencies on this matter and we believe this has been resolved.

Planned changes

For any maintenance downtime periods, please schedule some buffer time to re-sume enrollment and activation appointments to account for any unanticipated de-lays in service.

- **Routine maintenance is scheduled for Saturday, December 5.**
  This is the regular December maintenance. Please plan for the USAccess Service and Role Holder Portals to be unavailable for most of the day.

  NOTE Entrust has informed us that they also plan for maintenance on this day. The MSO is already in regular discussions with Entrust to review the changes and mitigate any impact to USAccess and our customers. We will monitor this maintenance work closely and will send out an email to Agency Leads if there are any delays in the work this weekend that could impact our users.

- **Routine maintenance planned for Saturday, December 12**
  This is routine database work. Please plan for the USAccess Service and Role Holder Portals to be unavailable for most of the day.

Security Tip

Hosting Light Solutions

As many Credentialing Centers transition from Fixed to Light Solutions, it's important to remember that the rules for hosting the stations remain unchanged. The USAccess READY! Guide details the security, facility, and other requirements for hosting a Cre-dentialing Center such as room size, single-purpose room requirement, and a locka-ble door.